

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 SCCT-01 OMB-01 DHA-02 IO-10 /074 W

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R 220950Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4765

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJ: STUDENTS PROTEST DETENTIONS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0795

1. UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN STUDENTS HELD MASS MEETING ON CAMPUS AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 21 TO PROTEST FIVE DETENTIONS UNDER TERRORISM ACT (REFTEL).

2. ADDRESSING MEETING, GEOFF BUDLENDER, FORMER INTERIM CHAIRMAN OF NUT; AND CURRENTLY LAW STUDENT AND ASSOCIATE OF INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS AND CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE, SAID HE WAS "SHOCKED, HORRIFIED AND SICKENED" BY DETENTIONS OF PERSONS WHOSE ONLY LINK WAS THAT THEY ARE SOUTH AFRICANS COMMITTED TO THEIR COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE. RECENTLY ELECTED SRG PRESIDENT (KNOWN AS POLITICALLY MODERATE) DIRK KEMP CALLED FOR RELEASE OF DETAINEES AND "COMPLETE REJECTION" OF TERRORISM ACT WHICH, HE SAID, AMOUNTED TO "VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THE COURTS OF THE LAND".

3. SIR RICHARD LUYT, PRINCIPAL OF UCT, ALSO ADDRESSING THE THE MEETIN, IN SUPPORT OF MOTION REQUESTING REPEAL OF TERRORISM

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ACT AND RELEASE OF DETAINEES, SAID HE WAS "IMMENSELY CONCERNED"

AND SHARED THE STUDENT'S PROTEST. PRP MP VAN ZYL SLABBERT, ALSO SUPPORTING THIS MOTION, SAID CONNECTION BETWEEN LAW AND JUSTICE LOST ALL MEANING UNDER TERRORISM ACT.

4. OTHER SPEAKERS WERE NIGEL WILLIS, FORMER SRC PRESIDENT, AND MIKE STENT, NUSAS PRESIDENT-ELECT. STUDENTS THEN APPROVED ALONG LINE OF KEMP'S PROPOSAL (ABOVE) BY 1000 TO 4 ABSTENTIONS, ACCORDING TO PRESS, AND DECIDED TO HOLD ACTION MEETING ON CAMPUS DURING AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 22.

5. BEGIN LOU. IN TALKING TO ME AFTER UNIVERSITY PROTEST RALLY, BUDLENDER DISCOUNTED KOTZE'S THEORY (REFTTEL) AND SAID HE SAW NO PATTERN WHATSOEVER TO DETENTIONS. POLLEY HAD ONLY SLIGHT CONNECTION WITH NUSAS IN THE PAST AND RILEY NONE AT ALL. UNLESS ALL FIVE HAD BEEN UP TO SOMETHING OF WHICH HE WAS TOTALLY UNAWARE HE WAS AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN WHY THESE PERSONS HAD BEEN SEIZED. HE ALSO WAS PUZZLED BY TIMING OF DETENTIONS AS THESE USUALLY ARE CARRIED OUT IN RAPID ORDER. POLLEY, RILEY AND MARE WERE TAKEN IN AT APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME (BETWEEN 1 AND 2:30 P.M. ON AUGUST 21 ACCORDING TO BUDLENDER) BUT TIM AND MOSS WERE PICKED UP MUCH LATER DURING NIGHT. EITHER SECURITY POLICE HAD FUMBLED OR THEIR QUESTIONING OF FIRST THREE HAD YIELDED INFORMATION THAT MADE LAST TWO SUSPECT. END LOU.
GAMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, TERRORISM, LAW, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAPET00797
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750293-1047
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750824/aaaaaulh.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CAPE TOWN 795
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENTS PROTEST DETENTIONS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006